



## Iowa Smart Planning Task Force State Agency Survey

During the 2010 General Assembly, the Iowa Smart Planning Bill (SF2389) was adopted. This legislation laid out the Smart Planning Principles outlined below and required that “state agencies, local governments, and other public entities shall consider and may apply the following principles during deliberation of all appropriate planning, zoning, development and resource management decisions”. Application of smart planning principles is intended to result in more coordinated community development that leads to enhanced quality of life, reduced infrastructure investment needs and a more sustainable economic development pattern that minimizes impacts on the public and the environment.

The creation of the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force was also included in this legislation and is required to assist in the above goal by evaluating state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles. In addition, we know there many examples of smart planning principles being applied in state government programs and we’d like to identify and use those examples as models. In order to begin work towards these objectives, we are asking pertinent state agencies to complete the survey which will assist the task force in understanding current work and needed steps.

Please return completed survey by Monday, Aug. 16, 2010, to Annette Mansheim at:  
[Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov](mailto:Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov)

### **Iowa Smart Planning Principles (as defined in Senate File 2389):**

1. **Collaboration.** Governmental, community, and individual stakeholders, including those outside the jurisdiction of the entity, are encouraged to be involved and provide comment during deliberation of planning, zoning, development, and resource management decisions and during implementation of such decisions. The state agency, local government, or other public entity is encouraged to develop and implement a strategy to facilitate such participation.
2. **Efficiency, transparency, and consistency.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should be undertaken to provide efficient, transparent, and consistent outcomes. Individuals, communities, regions, and governmental entities should share in the responsibility to promote the equitable distribution of development benefits and costs.
3. **Clean, renewable, and efficient energy.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should be undertaken to promote clean and renewable energy use and increased energy efficiency.
4. **Occupational diversity.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote increased diversity of employment and business opportunities, promote access to education and training, expand entrepreneurial opportunities, and promote the establishment of businesses in locations near existing housing, infrastructure, and transportation.
5. **Revitalization.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should facilitate the revitalization of established town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that conserves land, protects historic resources, promotes pedestrian accessibility, and integrates different uses of property. Remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures, and infrastructure is preferred over new construction in undeveloped areas.

6. **Housing diversity.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should encourage diversity in the types of available housing, support the rehabilitation of existing housing, and promote the location of housing near public transportation and employment centers.
7. **Community character.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote activities and development that are consistent with the character and architectural style of the community and should respond to local values regarding the physical character of the community.
8. **Natural resources and agricultural protection.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should emphasize protection, preservation, and restoration of natural resources, agricultural land, and cultural and historic landscapes, and should increase the availability of open spaces and recreational facilities.
9. **Sustainable design.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote developments, buildings, and infrastructure that utilize sustainable design and construction standards and conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, air, and materials.
10. **Transportation diversity.** Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote expanded transportation options for residents of the community. Consideration should be given to transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel, and improve air quality.

### Survey Questions:

1. What planning processes, policies, programs, statutes and rules does your agency administer that impact the built environment of local communities, including how they grow, change and resize, such as zoning, development and resource management (please provide a complete list)? Please group each item by category (i.e. planning process, policy, program, statute, and rule).
2. In what ways does your agency currently conduct planning processes or use Smart Planning Principles (or similar principles)? Please describe specific planning processes and/or application of smart planning principles and include the following as applicable:
  - a. Title of the process and a brief overview.
  - b. List of smart planning principles involved in the process (using the list from the beginning of this document).
  - c. Description of other parties involved in the process and how they are involved (i.e. other state agencies, local governments, regional/metropolitan planning organizations, interest groups, and other interested parties).
  - d. Description of the benefits, successes, and/or results of the process.
  - e. Opportunities to improve the process.
3. Has your agency included Smart Planning Principles in grant eligibility criteria and review processes for funding awarded by your agency?
  - a. If so, how has this been incorporated?
  - b. If not, has a process been established to review grant eligibility and award criteria for the purpose of determining how to incorporate Smart Planning Principles into your grant programs?

4. The attached checklist was provided to agency directors in May as a way to track the use of Smart Planning Principles in decision-making processes. Is your agency currently using this checklist?
  - a. If yes, please provide copies of any completed checklists.
  - b. If no, is there another way in which your agency is integrating these principles?
5. What are barriers within your agency or within the grant programs your agency administers to the integration of these principles in the grant programs?
6. What incentives might assist you in integrating these principles into grant eligibility and award processes?
7. What impacts do you think such smart planning integration would have on the following?
  - a. State program administration and grant awards
  - b. Local governments
  - c. Other entities
  - d. Citizens quality of life and the environment
8. Can you suggest ways for the state to apply Smart Planning Principles at the state-agency level in a manner that promotes integration and collaboration among all State agencies?